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National Marine Fisheries Service
Federal Caucus Comment Record
c/o BPA-PL
707 West Main Street, Suite 500
Spokane, Washington 99201

On behalf of the League of Kentucky Sportsmen and our 75,000 members and supporters, I am asking you to support the recovery of the Snake River salmon.

Over the last 20 years, the federal government has spent billions of tax dollars to maintain four dams on the lower Snake River that are driving the remaining Snake River salmon to extinction, and causing multiple violations of the Clean Water Act. It is imperative these four dams be removed to save these salmon species.

The Snake River, which branches off of the Columbia River to run through Southeastern Washington, Oregon, and Idaho was once home to some of the most abundant and magnificent salmon runs in the nation. With the construction of four federal dams on the lower Snake River in the late 60's and early 70's, however, all Snake River salmon species have been spiraling toward extinction. Because of these dams, all Snake River salmon stocks are now either already extinct or listed under the Endangered Species Act.

The scientific reports are conclusive: removing these four dams, in conjunction with better management of salmon habitat, hatcheries, and harvest levels, is the only way to return Snake River salmon to a sustainable level.

Economic assessments indicate that dam removal will create more jobs and lead to a stronger economy in the region than keeping the dams in place and losing the salmon.

Dam removal is also the only way the federal government can fulfill its treaty obligations to Native Americans and Canada and comply with two of our nation's premier environmental laws - the Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act.

The sportsmen and women of Kentucky urge you to support legislation to remove these dams and save our wild salmon before they disappear forever!

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Saunders".

Linda Saunders
National Wildlife Representative
League of Kentucky Sportsmen